

IN THE CLAIMS:

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1. (Canceled)

2. (Currently Amended) The safety shield according to eClaim 1 22, wherein the rigid, planar member is constructed from a material selected from the group consisting of metal alloys, woods, polymeric compositions, and combinations thereof.

3-5. (Canceled)

6. (Currently Amended) The safety shield according to claim 5 23, wherein the notched support comprises a plurality of aligned notches suitable for removably attaching the rigid, planar member to the supporting cross member of the chair.

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7. (Currently Amended) The safety shield according to eClaim 6, further comprising locking means suitable for removably attaching the notched support to the supporting cross member for maintaining the position of the rigid planar member shield on the chair.

8. (Currently Amended) The safety shield according to Claim 7, wherein the rigid, planar member metal alloy is fabricated of stainless steel.

9. (Currently Amended) The safety shield according to Claim 8, wherein the animals is are a non-human primates.

10. (Previously Amended) The safety shield according to Claim 9, wherein a handle is attached to the planar member.

11. (Previously Amended) A safety shield for a restraint chair, comprising: a) a vertically positioned, rigid, planar member having first and second surfaces, top and bottom sides, and left and right ends; b) at least one adjustable, notched supports

member attached to the second surface of the rigid planar member for adjustment thereof, the notched support member being adapted for receiving locking means; c) a supporting cross member of the chair, wherein the notched support member is adapted for removable attachment to the supporting cross member of the chair; d) clamping means, attached to a horizontally positioned supporting cross member of the chair, wherein the clamping means proximally abuts the notched support member, the clamping means adapted for receiving locking means; and e) locking means suitable for connecting the at least one adjustable notched support member and clamping means so as to hold the rigid planar member in a fixed position, wherein the vertically positioned rigid planar member is fabricated from metal alloys, and wherein the safety shield is suitable for protecting laboratory personnel from injury when working with non-human primates.

12. (Previously Amended) The safety shield according to Claim 11, wherein the rigid, planar member is fabricated from a material selected from metals alloys, woods, polymeric compositions, and combinations thereof.

13. (Previously Amended) The safety shield according to Claim 12, wherein the at least one notched support member, comprise two vertically attached members positioned proximal close to the left and right ends of the second surface of the rigid planar member, each member having an equal number of aligned notches thereon adapted for removably attaching onto the supporting cross member, wherein a hole through the notched support members is proximally close to each notch, the hole suitable for accepting the locking means.

14. (Previously Amended) The safety shield according to Claim 13, wherein the clamping means comprise two rectangular brackets attached to the supporting cross member, wherein each bracket has a hole therein that aligns with the holes of the notched support members, and wherein the brackets are positioned at a distance of about the width of the rigid planar member.

15. (Previously Amended) The safety shield according to Claim 14, wherein the locking means, comprise an elongated rod having first and second ends, wherein a handle is attached on the first end, and wherein the rod is suitable for removably positioning into the holes of the rectangular brackets and notched support members.

16. (Original) The safety shield according to Claim 15, wherein the equal number of aligned notches is about three.

17. (Previously Amended) The safety shield according to Claim 16, wherein the vertically positioned rigid planar member has a horizontally positioned rigid planar member attached at the bottom side thereof, wherein the length of the horizontally positioned rigid planar member extends from the left to the right ends of the length of the vertically positioned rigid planar member, and the width of the horizontally positioned rigid planar member is of suitable to provide additional protection to a worker.

18. (Canceled)

19. (Previously Amended) The safety shield according to Claim 21, wherein a handle is attached to the first side of the vertically positioned rigid planar member.

20. (Currently Amended) The safety shield according to Claim 19, wherein the metal alloy is stainless steel.

21. (Previously Amended) A safety shield, adapted for fitting onto an animal restraint chair, comprising: a) a vertically positioned, rigid planar member having first and second surfaces, top and bottom sides, and left and right ends; b) two vertically aligned adjustable notched support members attached proximal to the left and right ends of the second surface of the vertically positioned planar member, each support comprising a plurality of vertically aligned notches, each notched support member having an equal number of aligned notches thereon and a hole proximate to each notch for

receiving locking means; c) a supporting cross member attached to the chair for supporting the rigid planar member, wherein the notches of the notched support members removably attach to the supporting cross member; d) two rectangular brackets attached to the supporting cross member, wherein each bracket has a hole therein that aligns with the holes of the notched support members, wherein the brackets are positioned at a distance proximal to the width of the vertically positioned rigid planar member, and wherein the holes of the brackets are adapted for receiving locking means; e) locking means, comprise an elongated rod having first and second ends, wherein a handle is attached to the first end of the rod, wherein the second end of the rod is suitable for removably fitting through the holes of the notched support members and the holes of the brackets to hold the shield in a fixed position on the supporting cross member; and f) a horizontally positioned rigid planar member attached to the bottom side of the vertically positioned rigid planar member, wherein the length of the horizontally positioned rigid planar member extends from the left end to the right end of the vertically positioned rigid planar member, wherein the width of the horizontally positioned rigid planar member is proximal to the width of the vertically positioned rigid planar member, wherein the shield is suitable for protecting laboratory personnel from injury when working with non-human primates.

22. (New) The safety shield according to Claim 17, wherein a handle is attached to the first side of the rigid planar member.

23. (New) A safety shield suitable for protecting laboratory personnel from injury when working with animals, the shield being suitable for attachment to an animal restraining chair and adjustable movement in the vertical direction, said shield comprising: a rigid planar member, at least one notched support attached to the rigid planar member, and a supporting cross member, wherein the notched support is adapted for removable attachment to a supporting cross member, and wherein the adjustable movement in the vertical direction is performed by a notched support.